

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed June 25 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-51 were previously pending in this application. Claim 28 is allowed. The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7, 10-12, 18-20, 23, 25-27, 29-37, 41, 42, 44-46, 48 and 50. The Office Action indicated that claims 6, 8, 9, 13-17, 21, 22, 24, 38, 40, 43, 47, 49, and 51 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten objected-to claims 6, 8, 13, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 40, 43, 47, 49, and 51 in independent form, including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Thus, these claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 27, and 45, and amended the dependency of claims 2, 11, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 36, 42, 44, and 46 so that these claims do not depend from a canceled claim.

Thus, all claims remaining in the application after this amendment are either allowed (i.e, claim 28), indicated to be allowable (i.e., claims 6, 8, 13, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28, 40, 43, 47, 49, and 51), or allowable based on their dependency from a claim that is allowed or indicated to be allowable (i.e., claims 2-5, 7, 10-12, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29-37, 39, 41, 42, 44, and 46).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Applicants are planning to file a continuation to continue to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims, which Applicants continue to believe is patentable.

Applicants' representatives have made every effort to accurately rewrite each of the numerous claims that has been indicated as including allowable subject matter. However, in view of the number of amendments required, the Examiner is requested to not rely upon any representation that the objected-to claims have been accurately rewritten, and is requested to verify the accuracy of the claims prior to allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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